FILE 19: A Few Cherry Blossoms #3

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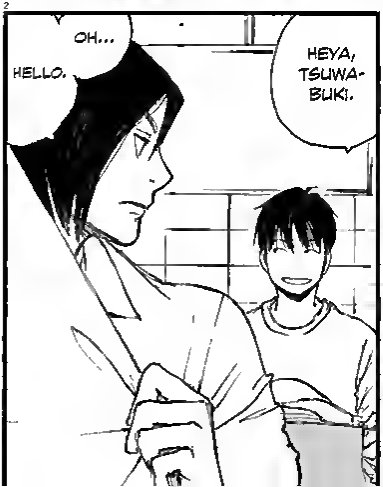

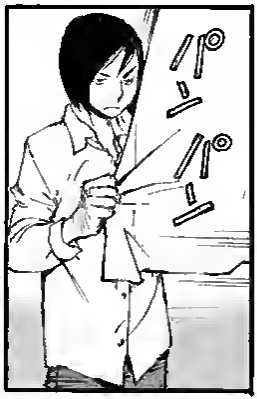

THE BACKYARD HERE IS TOO BIG.
YUP.
THEY USED TO GROW VEGETABLES HERE DURING THE WAR.
USED TO BE CHERRY BLOSSOM TREES HERE TOO,
BUT MOST OF THEM WERE DESTROYED IN THE BOMBINGS. ONLY ONE LEFT NOW.
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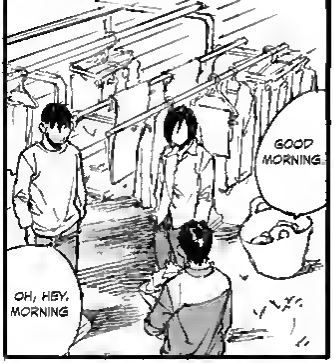
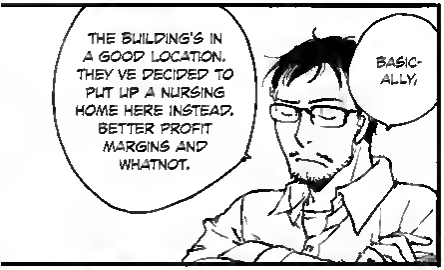
THE BIG ONE NEXT TO THE FRONT DOOR? I DIDN'T KNOW THAT WAS A CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE.
WELL, THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY IT IS. NEVER SEEN IT BLOOM MYSELF.
AND I'VE BEEN HERE A FEW YEARS NOW.
OUT OF ALL OF US HERE RIGHT NOW, ONLY THE DORM HEAD'S EVER SEEN ANY FLOWERS FROM THE DAMN THING.

OH, DAMN, IS HE THINKING OF RAISING THE RENT?
MAYBE HE KNOWS WE PULLED AN ALL NIGHTER PLAYING GAMES LAST WEEK.


GOOD MORNING
OH, HEY. MORNING

THE BIG BOSS WANTS US ALL TO GATHER UP AT DINNER. SAYS HE'S GOT SOMETHING TO ANNOUNCE.

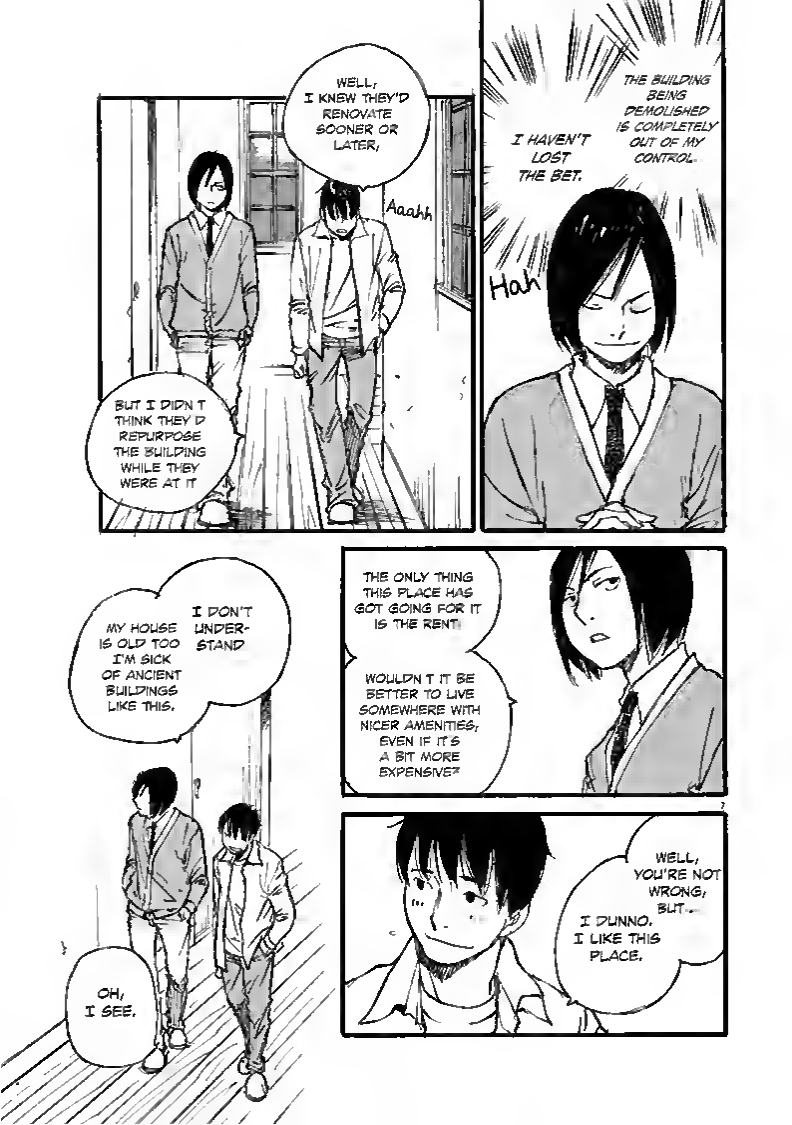
SO THERE YOU HAVE IT.
WE'RE SHUTTING THIS PLACE DOWN.


THE BUILDING'S IN A GOOD LOCATION. THEY'VE DECIDED TO PUT UP A NURSING HOME HERE INSTEAD. BETTER PROFIT MARGINS AND WHATNOT.
BASIC-ALLY,

WOW, YOU'RE FINALLY DOING IT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
WHAT THE HELL?! THE SCHOOL YEAR'S NOT EVEN OVER YET!

THIS PLACE HASN'T BEEN FULL IN YEARS.
I CAN SEE THAT, LESS YOUNG PEOPLE BEING BORN NOWA-DAYS AND ALL.
YEAH, IT'S HUGE BUT NOBODY LIVES HERE.

ANYWAY, YOU ALL SHOULD FIND NEW PLACES TO STAY OVER SPRING VACATION AND THEN MOVE OUT.
YES. DEMOLITION'S SLATED FOR APRIL.
THAT FAST?!
IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE'D WANNA LIVE IN A DORM WITH A SHARED BATHROOM THESE DAYS, ANYWAY.
SO WHAT DOES THAT MAKE US THEN?
THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
HOW'RE WE GONNA FIND ANYWHERE CHEAPER THAN HERE?!
WHY'RE YOU ASKING ME THIS STUFF?
YES!

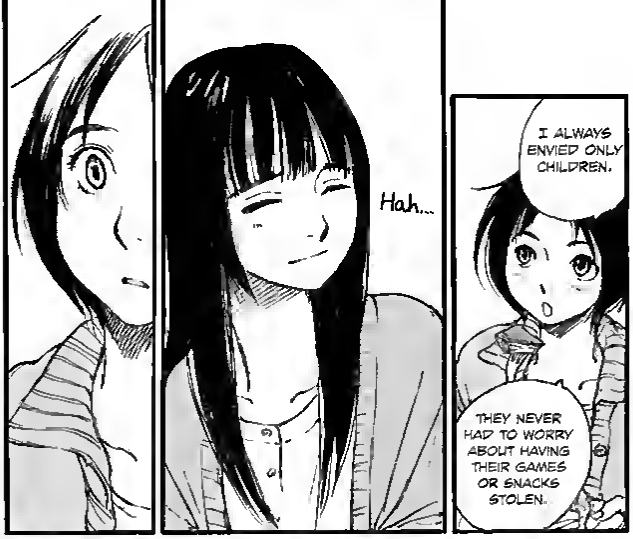

WELL, I KNEW THEY'D RENOVATE SOONER OR LATER,
Aaahh
BUT I DIDN T THINK THEY D REPURPOSE THE BUILDING WHILE THEY WERE AT IT
I HAVEN'T LOST THE BET.
THE BUILDING BEING DEMOLISHED IS COMPLETELY OUT OF MY CONTROL.
Hah
THE ONLY THING THIS PLACE HAS GOT GOING FOR IT IS THE RENT!
WOULDN T IT BE BETTER TO LIVE SOMEWHERE WITH NICER AMENITIES, EVEN IF IT S A BIT MORE EXPENSIVE?
I DON'T UNDER-STAND
MY HOUSE IS OLD TOO I'M SICK OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS LIKE THIS.
OH, I SEE.
WELL, YOU'RE NOT WRONG, BUT...
I DUNNO. I LIKE THIS PLACE.

Wow!

I LOVE IT! IT'S LIKE A WHOLE NEW COAT.
I KNEW I MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE ASKING YOU!

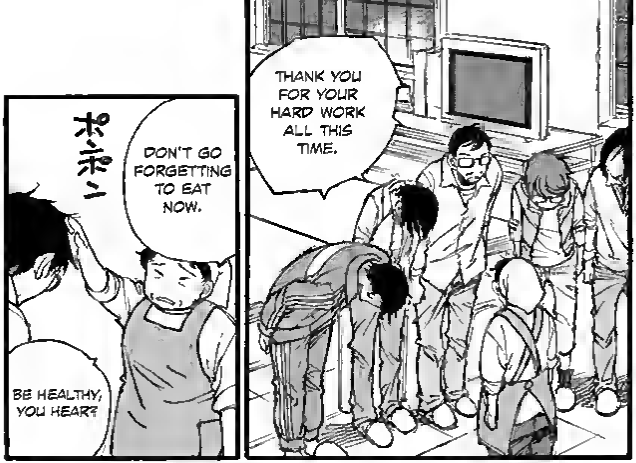
THIS IS SO CUTE!

WERE YOU ALWAYS THIS GOOD AT NEEDLE-WORK?
I'M GLAD YOU LIKE IT.
SEE? THERE'S A REASON YOU HAVE A TON OF REPEAT CUSTOM-ERS.
OH, AND HERE'S A GIFT. MOM BAKED AN APPLE PIE FOR YOU.
THANK YOU. I'LL START BREWING SOME TEA.
I DON'T HAVE ANY SIBLINGS,
SO I ALWAYS PLAYED BY MYSELF.
EVEN AS A LITTLE GIRL, THOUGH, I LIKED MAKING CLOTHES FOR MY DOLLS
NOT ALWAYS.
I JUST PLAYED SOCCER WITH MY BROTHERS ALL DAY.
WOW, THAT'S SO FEMININE.


I ALWAYS ENVIED ONLY CHILDREN.
THEY NEVER HAD TO WORRY ABOUT HAVING THEIR GAMES OR SNACKS STOLEN.
Hah...

WOULD YOU MIND IF I CAME OVER MORE? LIKE, NOT WITH WORK. JUST TO HANG OUT.
BUT, UMM...
THANKS AGAIN.
I'LL COME BACK WITH MORE STUFF FOR YOU SOON.
OF COURSE

Sometimes...
She just smiles that lonely smile...
I've never met anybody...
...who smiled like that.
It feels like she's from another world, sometimes
The kind of place I've never laid eyes on.


THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK ALL THIS TIME.
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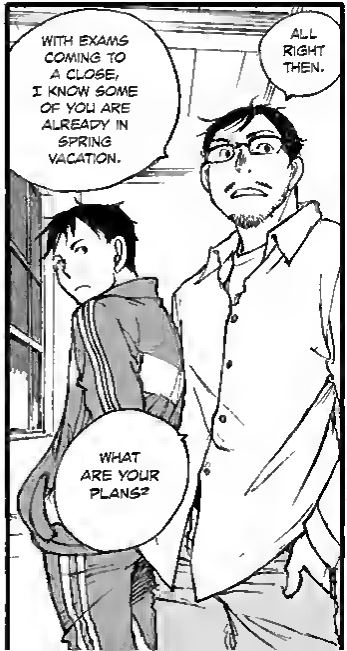
DON'T GO FORGETTING TO EAT NOW.
BE HEALTHY, YOU HEAR?


ALL RIGHT THEN.
WITH EXAMS COMING TO A CLOSE, I KNOW SOME OF YOU ARE ALREADY IN SPRING VACATION.
WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS?

AND YOU, ROOKIE!
YOU NEED TO STOP BEING SO PICKY ABOUT WHAT YOU EAT!

SHE WAS FEROCIOUS, BUT A GOOD PERSON, HUH?
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I'M GONNA STAY HERE UNTIL RIGHT BEFORE THEY TEAR THIS PLACE DOWN.
WELL, I GUESS WE JUST HAVE TO FIND A PLACE, RIGHT?
I'VE GOT TO START PACKING...
aaah
Makes me sad
MOST PLACES PROBABLY DON'T COME WITH FURNITURE...
YOU'RE RIGHT
IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE THIS THROUGH TO THE END, AS WELL.
YEAH.
OH.. I SEE
SINCE IT'S THE END AND ALL, HUH

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We're not under siege or anything
What?
No reinforcements coming but we'll stay to the last man!
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THEY'RE TEARING IT DOWN SOON?

YUP.
I DON'T THINK THE PROFESSOR'S GONNA DO ANYTHING OFFICIAL, SO
I HEAR THERE'S STILL SOME PEOPLE LEFT, BUT IT'S A GUY'S DORM

HMM...
SO YOU WANNA GO TAKE PICTURES, HUH?

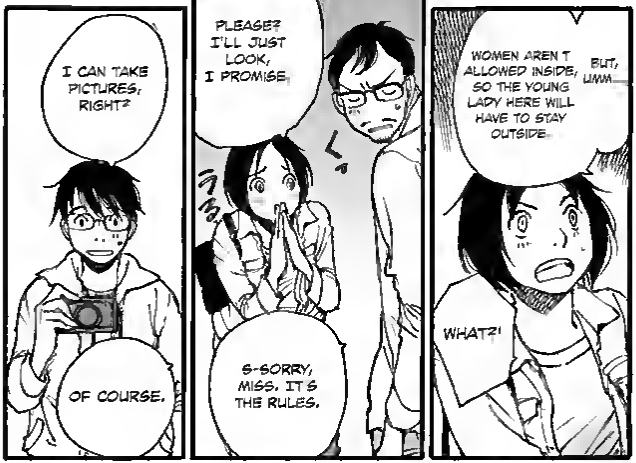
SO COME WITH ME,
WILL YOU?

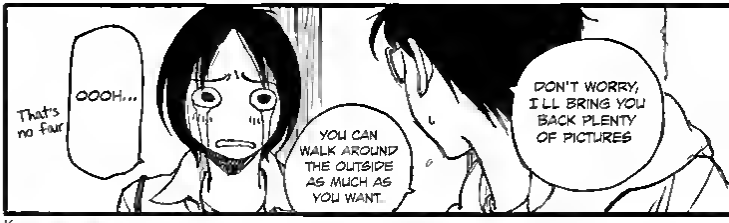
YUP. A 1935.
WOW.. THIS IS REALLY OLD.
YOU SAY THAT LIKE IT'S A WINE OR SOMETHING

EXCUSE ME. IS ANYONE THERE?
THE CLAP BOARD WALLS LOOK PRETTY ROBUST DESPITE THE AGE, HUH.

MHMM. THANKS FOR LETTING US.
OH, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID SHE WANTED TO TAKE A LOOK AROUND, RIGHT?
I REMEMBER YOU CALLING

HELLO?


I CAN TAKE PICTURES, RIGHT?
OF COURSE.
PLEASE? I'LL JUST LOOK, I PROMISE.
S-SORRY, MISS. IT'S THE RULES.
WOMEN AREN'T ALLOWED INSIDE, SO THE YOUNG LADY HERE WILL HAVE TO STAY OUTSIDE.
BUT, UMM...
WHAT?!


That's no fair
OOOH...
YOU CAN WALK AROUND THE OUTSIDE AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.
DON'T WORRY, I'LL BRING YOU BACK PLENTY OF PICTURES

WELL, ANYWAY FEEL FREE TO LOOK AROUND AND ASK ME IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.
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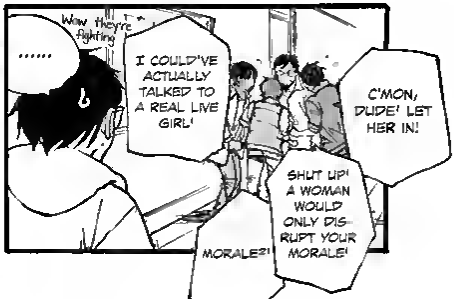
Wow they're fighting
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I COULD'VE ACTUALLY TALKED TO A REAL LIVE GIRL!
C'MON, DUDE! LET HER IN!
SHUT UP! A WOMAN WOULD ONLY DISRUPT YOUR MORALE!
MORALE?!

THE WIRING IS PRETTY IMPRESSIVE
Like a mangrove tree
YOU CAN TELL HOW THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US WORKED WITH THIS STUFF
A DORM JUST FOR STUDENTS, HUH?
SOUNDS LIKE IT'D BE FUN
AUTO
SD
ON
17
THE WINDOWS LOOK OPAQUE FOR SOME REASON
HUH?

MAYBE IT RAN OUT OF TIME, JUST LIKE THE BUILDING.
IT'S BEEN THERE SINCE THE BUILDING WAS CONSTRUCTED,
BUT IT HASN'T ACTUALLY BLOSSOMED IN YEARS.
THAT'S A CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE.
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OH...

TSUWA-BUKI!
...
SORRY, WHAT WAS YOUR NAME AGAIN?